



## Serious shed business

THE serious business of setting up and running a shed will be the topic of WA's first men's shed conference in Mukinbudin next month.

The conference is one of 16 country and 10 metropolitan events to receive a State Government grant for Adult Learners' Week, which will run from September 1 to 8.

Announcing the \$2,200 grant, Agricultural MLC Brian Ellis said the conference was for volunteers running an existing shed or groups wanting to learn more about establishing a Men's Shed project.

"Many country men don't really engage with each other except through sport," he said.

"That is why the idea of setting up a shed is such a good one – it provides them with an informal meeting place where they can learn and interact.

"Throughout the conference the Mukinbudin Spring Festival will be running so there will also be plenty for partners to see and do."

Training Minister Peter Collier said the government was proud to support the week and had allocated more than \$33,000 for events to be hosted this year.

"Adult Learners' Week aims to cele-

brate lifelong learning and encouraged people to get out and learn something new," he said.

"The events being held throughout the region are a fantastic way for people in the community to expand their horizons, meet new people and have some fun."

The Adult Learners' Week program will also include a series of Yearn to Learn workshops, hosted by Corrigin Community Resource Centre, Brookton Telecentre, Dryandra Country Visitors Centre and Narrogin Library.

A Back to Basics series of workshops will also be held in Darkan to promote a more self sufficient lifestyle, including sessions on propagating garden plants, setting up and planning backyard vegetable gardens, and caring for chickens.

At the Toodyay Community Resource Centre, the focus will be on art and history, as photographs of events held in the town's community centre over the past 15 years will be transferred onto fabric and sewn into a wall quilt.

Mr Ellis said each participant would choose one photograph for the quilt, which would be used at conferences and on the walls at the community centre.



**A first:** Brian Ellis MLC does some 'shed chatting' with Bob Taylor at Northampton in the lead up to the first men's shed conference in Western Australia.